

SUBCHAPTER D—CLAIMS AND STOLEN PROPERTY

PART 33—FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT GUARANTY FUND PROCEDURES UNDER SECTION 7

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§ 33.1 Purpose.

These rules clarify procedures for the administration of Section 7 of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967. Section 7 of the Act establishes a Fishermen's Guaranty Fund to reimburse owners and charterers of United States commercial fishing vessels for certain losses and costs caused by the seizure and detention of their vessels by foreign countries under certain claims to jurisdiction not recognized by the United States.

§ 33.2 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part, the following terms mean:

Act. The Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1971 *et seq.*).

Capital equipment. Equipment or other property which may be depreciated for income tax purposes.

Depreciated replacement costs. The present replacement cost of capital equipment after being depreciated on a straight line basis over the equipment's depreciable life, which is standardized at ten years.

Downtime. The time a vessel normally would be in port or transiting to and from the fishing grounds.

Expendable items. Any property, excluding that which may be depreciated for income tax purposes, which is

maintained in inventory or expensed for tax purposes.

Fund. The Fishermen's Guaranty Fund established in the U.S. Treasury under section 7(c) of the Act (22 U.S.C. 1977(c)).

Market value. The price property would command in a market, at the time of property loss, assuming a seller willing to sell and buyer willing to buy.

Other direct charge. Any levy which is imposed in addition to, or in lieu of any fine, license fee, registration fee, or other charge.

Owner. The owner or charterer of a commercial fishing vessel.

Secretary. The Secretary of State or the designee of the Secretary of State.

Seizure. Arrest of a fishing vessel by a foreign country for allegedly illegal fishing.

U.S. fishing vessel. Any private vessel documented or certified under the laws of the United States as a commercial fishing vessel.

§ 33.3 Eligibility.

Any owner or charterer of a U.S. fishing vessel is eligible to apply for an agreement with the Secretary providing for a guarantee in accordance with section 7 of the Act.

§ 33.4 Applications.

(a) *Applicant.* An eligible applicant for a guaranty agreement must:

(1) Own or charter a U.S. fishing vessel; and

(2) Submit with his application the fee specified in § 33.6 below.

(b) *Application forms.* Application forms may be obtained by contacting the Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Room 7820, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818; Telephone 202-647-3941.

(c) *Where to apply.* Applications must be submitted to the Director, Office of marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Room 7820, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818.

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(d) *Application approval.* Application approval will be by execution of the guaranty agreement by the Secretary or by the Secretary's designee.

§ 33.5 Guaranty agreements.

(a) *Period in effect.* Agreements are effective for a Fiscal Year beginning October 1 and ending on the next September 30. Applications submitted after October 1 are effective from the date the application and fee are mailed (determined by the postmark) through September 30.

(b) *Guaranty agreement transfer.* A guaranty agreement may, with the Secretary's prior consent, be transferred when a vessel which is the subject of a guaranty agreement is transferred to a new owner if the transfer occurs during the agreement period.

(c) *Guaranty agreement renewal.* A guaranty agreement may be renewed for the next agreement year by submitting an application form with the appropriate fee for the next year in accordance with the Secretary's annually published requirements regarding fees. Renewals are subject to the Secretary's approval.

(d) *Provisions of the agreement.* The agreement will provide for reimbursement for certain losses caused by foreign countries' seizure and detention of U.S. fishing vessels on the basis of claims to jurisdiction which are not recognized by the United States. Recent amendments to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. (1801 *et seq.*) assert U.S. jurisdiction over highly migratory species of tuna in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Accordingly, as a matter of international law, the United States now recognizes other coastal states' claims to jurisdiction over tuna in their EEZ'S. This change directly affect certification of claims filed under the Fishermen's Protective Act. Participants are advised that this means that the Department will no longer certify for payment claims resulting from the seizure of a U.S. vessel while such vessel was fishing for tuna within the exclusive economic zone of another country in violation of that country's laws. Claims for detentions or seizures based on other claims to jurisdiction not recognized by the United States, or

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on the basis of claims to jurisdiction recognized by the United States but exercised in a manner inconsistent with international law as recognized by the United States, may still be certified by the Department.

§ 33.6 Fees.

(a) *General.* Fees provide for administrative costs and payment of claims. Fees are set annually on the basis of past and anticipated claim experience. The annual agreement year for which fees are payable starts on October 1 and ends on September 30 of the following year.

(b) *Amount and payment.* The amount of each annual fee or adjusted fee will be established by the Office Director of the Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, by publication of a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Each notice will establish the amount of the fee, when the fee is due, when the fee is payable, and any special conditions surrounding extension of prior agreements or execution of new agreements. Unless otherwise specified in such notices, agreement coverage will commence with the post-marked date of the fee payment and application.

(c) *Adjustment and refund.* Fees may be adjusted at any time to reflect actual seizure and detention experience for which claims are anticipated. Failure to submit adjusted fees will result in agreement termination as of the date the adjusted fee is payable. No fees will be refunded after an agreement is executed by the Secretary.

(d) *Disposition.* All fees will be deposited in the Fishermen's Guaranty Fund. They will remain available without fiscal year limitation to carry out section 7 of the Act. Claims will be paid from fees and from appropriated funds, if any. Fees not required to pay administrative costs or claims may be invested in U.S. obligations. All earnings will be credited to the Fishermen's Guaranty Fund.

§ 33.7 Conditions for claims.

(a) Unless there is clear and convincing credible evidence that the seizure did not meet the requirements of